LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Information Bulletin
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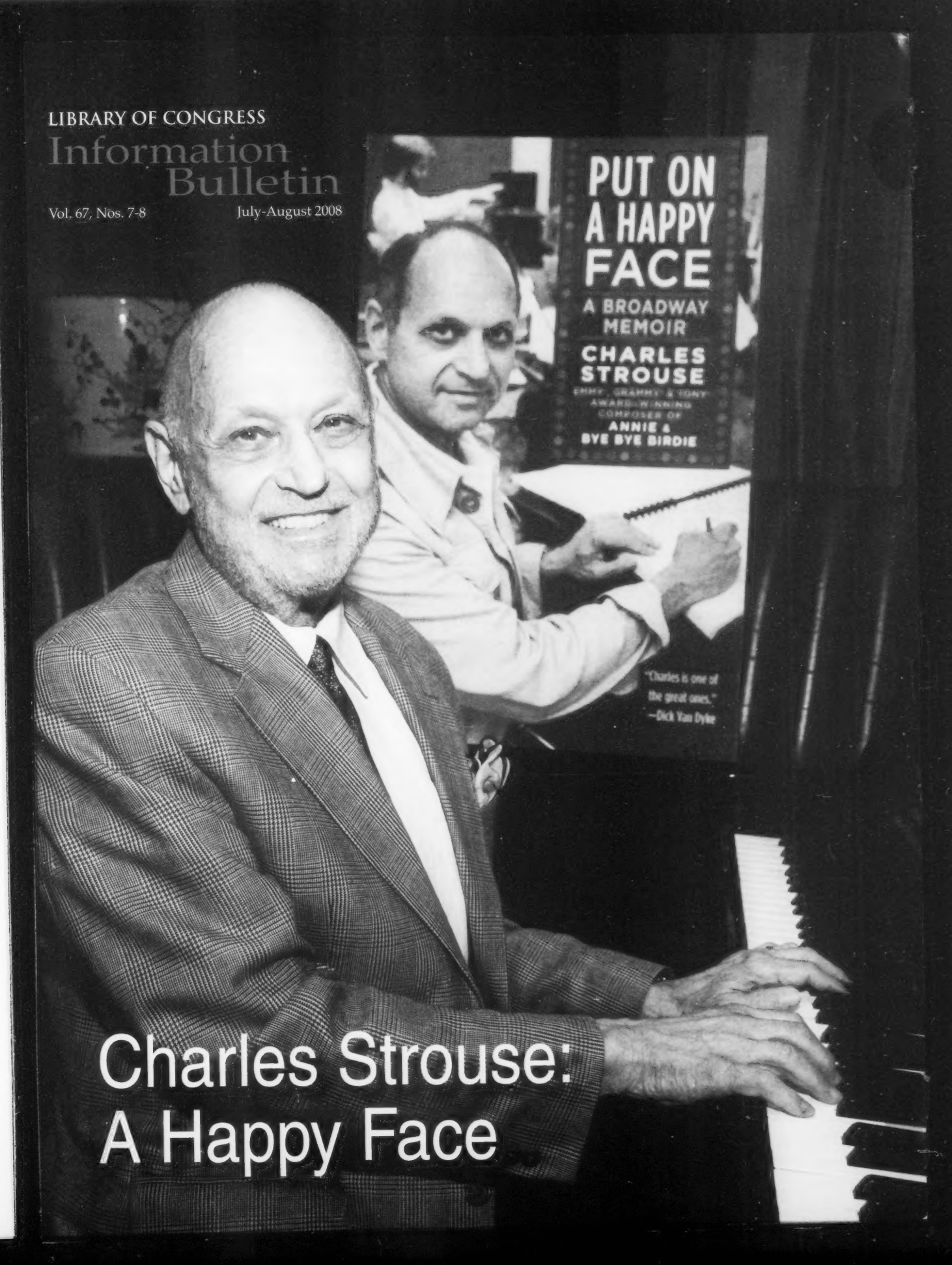
PUT ON A HAPPY FACE
A BROADWAY MEMOIR
CHARLES STROUSE
EMMY, GRAMMY & TONY AWARD-WINNING COMPOSER OF
ANNIE & BYE BYE BIRDIE
"Charles is one of the great ones."
—Dick Van Dyke

Charles Strouse: A Happy Face

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Information Bulletin

Vol. 67, Nos. 7-8 July-August 2008

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: On June 16, composer Charles Strouse celebrated the launch of his new memoir, "Put On A Happy Face," and his 80th birthday with friends and family at New York's 21 Club. *Photo by Anita & Steve Shevett.*

Cover Story: After a long career of composing for Broadway, film and television, Charles Strouse has donated his personal papers to the Library. 123

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Library Receives Papers of Charles Strouse

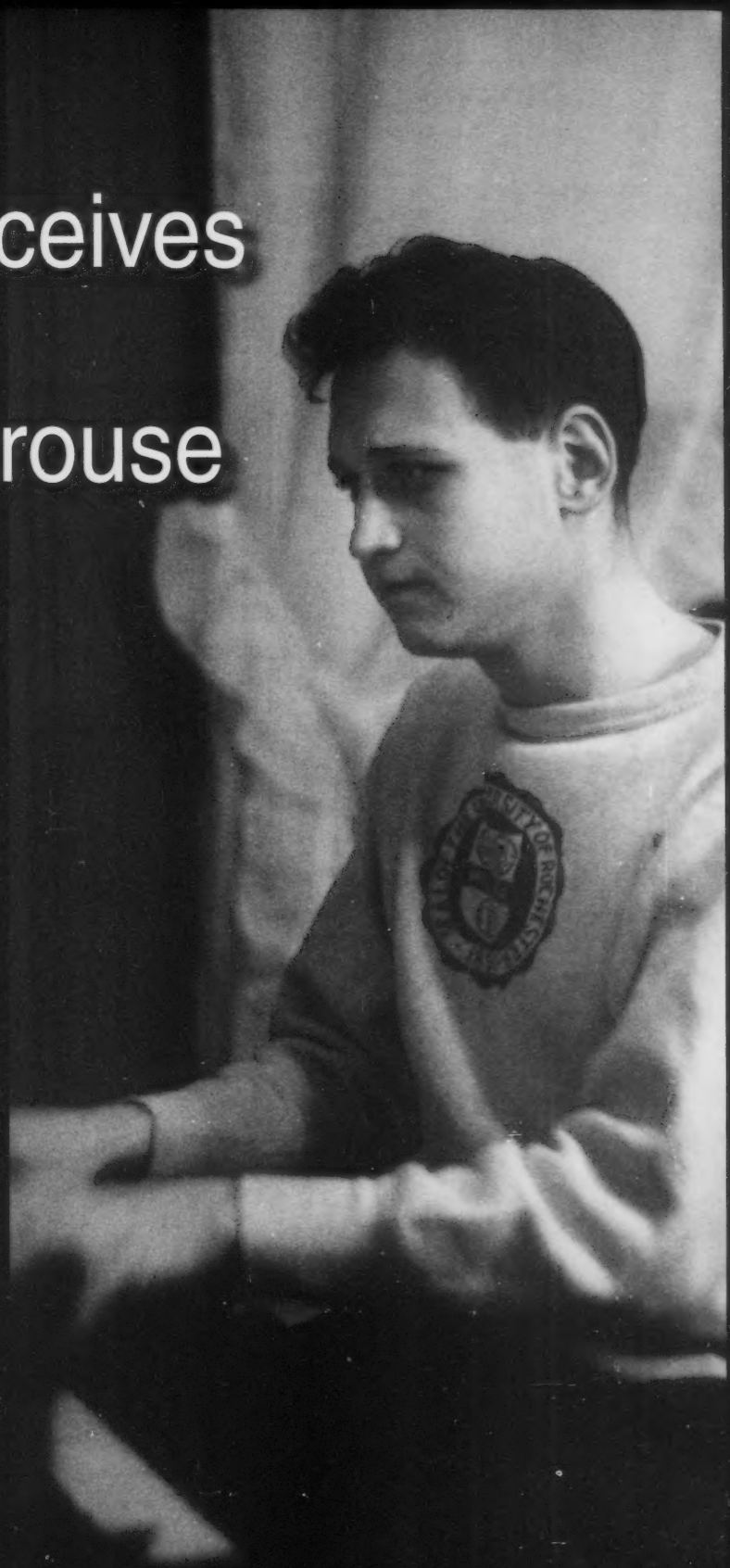
By JENNIFER GAVIN

"Tomorrow," that lovable place on the horizon that is "only a day away," actually arrived for a permanent stay at the Library of Congress on May 14, as Broadway giant Charles Strouse and members of his family visited the Library to present the gift of the prolific composer's papers.

Included are original music manuscripts and other items from his musical-theater smashes "Annie," "Bye Bye Birdie," "Golden Boy" and "Applause."

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington accepted the gift on behalf of the Library and the American people, saying, "This is a great moment for the Library" as he signed the deed of gift.

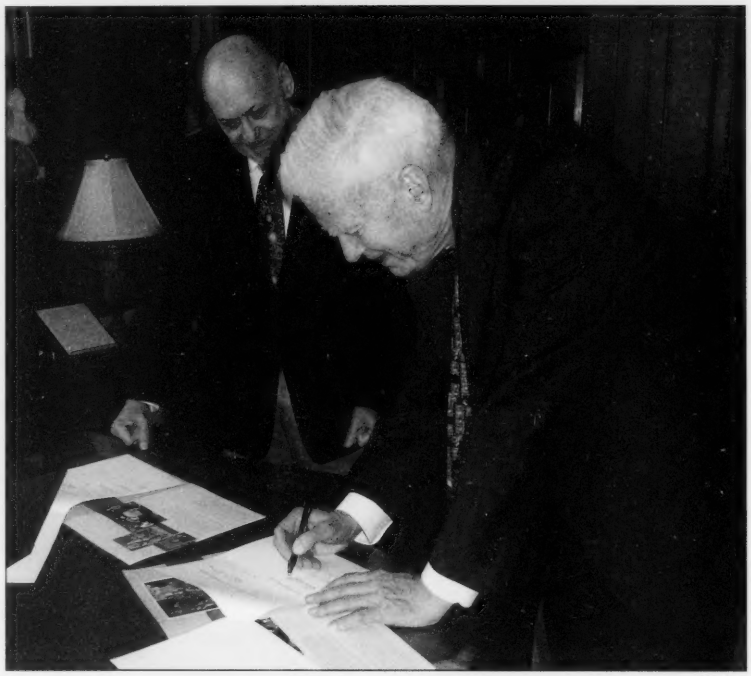
"I'm so honored," said Strouse, whose impeccable manners and gentle jokes made those who met him smile. When presented by Billington with a facsimile of a Mozart concert aria, Strouse quipped, "You couldn't get him to sign it for me?"



Strouse's papers include the original music manuscripts for the many stage productions for which he is so well-known, including the iconic song "Tomorrow" from "Annie," the original music manuscript for television's "All in the Family" theme "Those Were the Days," vintage LP albums of Strouse original-cast recordings and manuscripts and a poster from the show "Golden Boy."

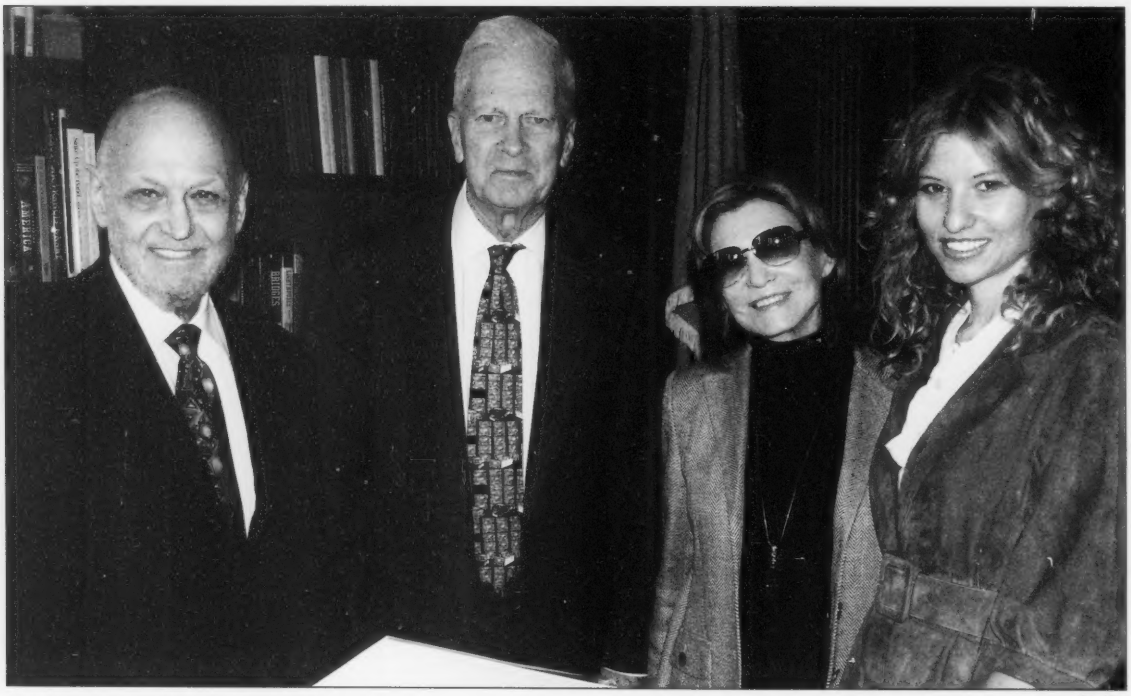
Strouse's papers will be the newest addition to collections in the Library of artists eminent in American lyric theater. These include the collections of George and Ira Gershwin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lorenz Hart, Frederick Loewe, Alan Jay Lerner, Leonard Bernstein and Irving Berlin.

Strouse, his wife Barbara Siman Strouse—a dancer and choreographer—his daughter Victoria, and his publicists Carolyn Copeland and Mary Kickel joined Music Division Director Susan H. Vita, Jan Lauridsen, Walter Zvonchenko, Ray White, Mark Horowitz, Betty Auman and other members of the Library's Music Division staff to view a special display of the new Strouse acquisitions in the cases of the Music Reading Room.



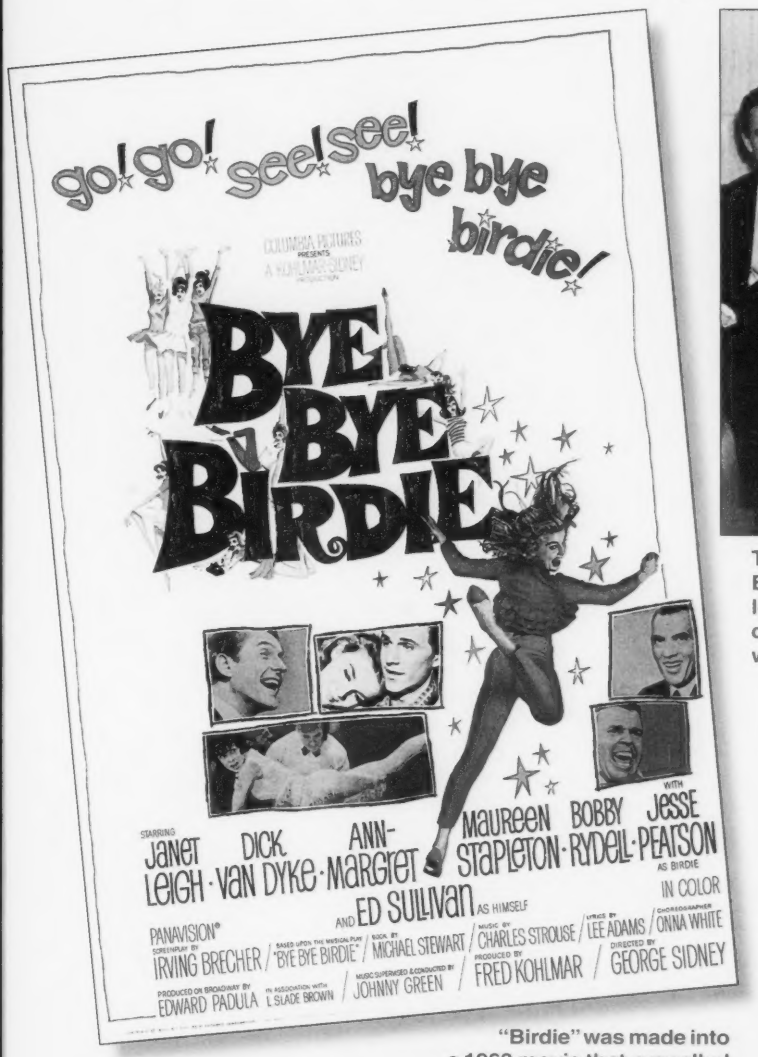
Erin Allen

Charles Strouse and Librarian of Congress James Billington sign the agreement for the Library to add the Broadway composer's papers to the Library's collections. Strouse viewed a display of his papers in the Library's Music Division Reading Room during the visit. The display included original manuscripts, posters and original-cast recordings.



Erin Allen

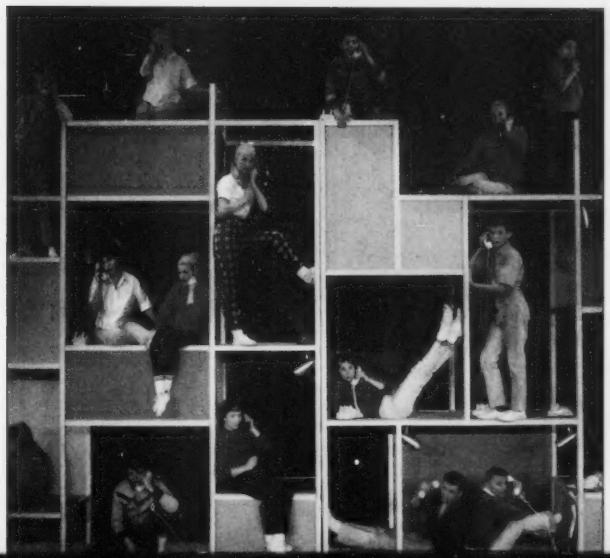
Strouse and the Librarian were joined by Strouse's wife Barbara and his daughter Victoria during the May 14 visit.


go! go! see! see! bye bye birdie!
COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS A KOHLMAR-SIDNEY PRODUCTION
BYE BYE BIRDIE
STARRING
JANET LEIGH · DICK VAN DYKE · ANN-MARGRET
MAUREEN STAPLETON · BOBBY RYDELL · WITH JESSE PEARSON AS BIRDIE
AND ED SULLIVAN AS HIMSELF
IN COLOR
PANAVISION®
SCREENPLAY BY IRVING BRECHER
BASED UPON THE MUSICAL PLAY "BYE BYE BIRDIE"
BOOK BY MICHAEL STEWART
MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE
LYRICS BY LEE ADAMS
CHOREOGRAPHER ONNA WHITE
PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY EDWARD PADULA
IN ASSOCIATION WITH L SLADE BROWN
MUSIC SUPERVISED & CONDUCTED BY JOHNNY GREEN
PRODUCED BY FRED KOHLMAR
DIRECTED BY GEORGE SIDNEY

"Birdie" was made into a 1963 movie that propelled Ann-Margret into stardom.

The creative team behind Strouse's first big Broadway hit, "Bye Bye Birdie" included, from left, director/choreographer Gower Champion, composer Charles Strouse, producer Ed Padula, writer Michael Stewart and lyricist Lee Adams.

Playbill for "Bye Bye Birdie" starring Chita Rivera and Dick Van Dyke, 1960



The teen ensemble performs "The Telephone Hour," the opening number of "Bye Bye Birdie," 1960.

From Broadway to Hip Hop

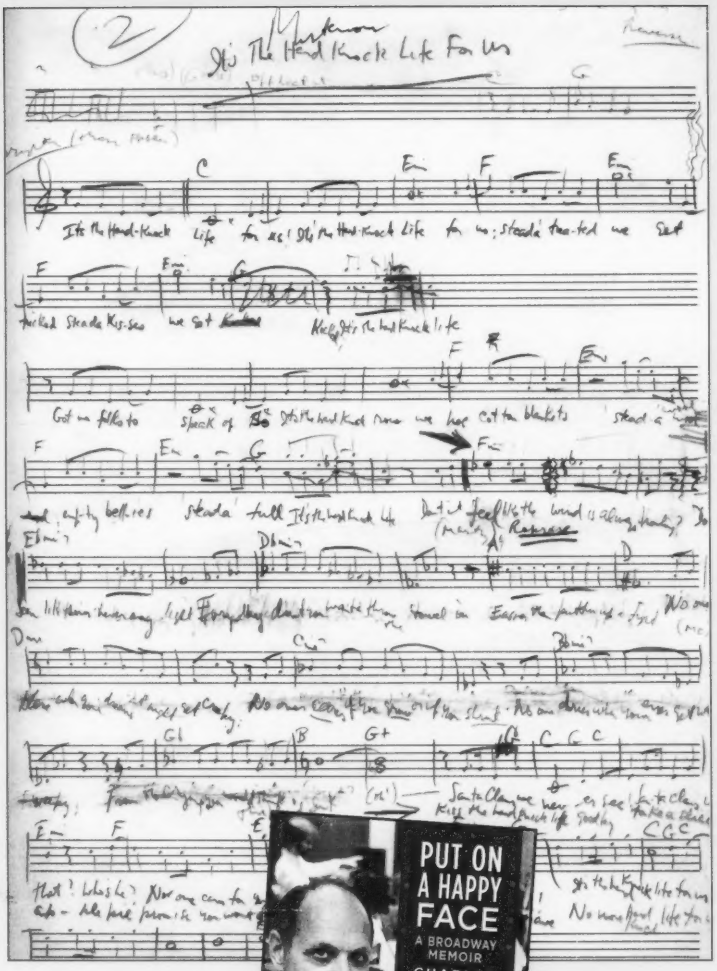
With a career that has spanned more than 50 years, composer Charles Strouse made his mark on stage, screen and the Billboard charts. His songs have been sung by musical greats from Frank Sinatra to Barbra Streisand, from Ray Charles to Jay-Z.

In 1958, his song "Born Too Late" by the Poni-Tails—the first successful girl group of the Rock 'n' Roll era—was a number one hit. Forty years later, Hip Hop artist Jay-Z won a Grammy award for Best Rap Album of the year (1998) for "Hard Knock Life (Ghetto Anthem)," which reflects Strouse's influence.

The rap album includes a song of the same title based on Strouse's "It's The Hard-Knock Life" from the musical "Annie." (Strouse's original handwritten score for the song is pictured at right.)

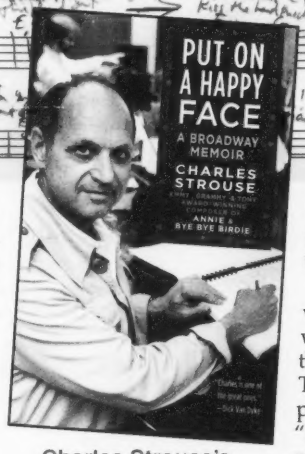
The rap version has received nearly 3 million views on You Tube, introducing a whole new audience to the popular show tune.

Fans of comedian Mike Myers may recall that the rap version of the song was spoofed in the 2002 film "Austin Powers in Goldmember." Performed by chief villain "Dr. Evil" (played by Myers) and his sidekick and alter ego Mini-Me (Verne Troyer), the song is a nod to Jay-Z (whose wife, Beyoncé Knowles, co-starred in the film) as well as Strouse, who composed the original.

—Audrey Fischer

Later, the Strouses were treated to a display of some of the treasures from the Library's Music Division, including Mozart's autograph manuscripts for his Violin Sonata in G Major and an aria for soprano and orchestra that Mozart wrote for his singer wife; Beethoven's autograph sketches for his "Hammerklavier" Sonata; and the score for "L'Euridice," printed in 1601, the earliest opera for which the music survives.

Twentieth-century treasures included the autograph manuscript for Igor Stravinsky's 1922 opera "Mavra;" an engagement calendar of the much-in-demand choreographer Serge Diaghilev, dating from the late 1920s; George Gershwin's manuscript short score for "Porgy and Bess," and Gershwin's original two-piano score for "Rhapsody in Blue."

Manhattan native Strouse, who turned 80 on June 7, 2008, studied at New York's Eastman School of Music in Rochester under Aaron Copland, Nadia Boulanger and David Diamond, among others. His first Broadway hit was the 1960 musical "Bye Bye Birdie," which brought Strouse his first Tony Award for best score. His musical "Applause" gave Strouse his second Tony award and brought Lauren Bacall back to the Broadway stage.



Charles Strouse's memoirs of Broadway

Perhaps the best-known musical by Strouse is "Annie"—based on the comic strip "Little Orphan Annie"—which opened in New York City in 1977. "Annie" brought Strouse his third Tony and two Grammy awards.

Songs that broke out of Strouse musicals to new fame in the repertoire of many singing stars include "Put on a Happy Face," "A Lot of Living to Do," "You've Got Possibilities" and "Once Upon a Time."

Strouse has also written two operatic works, "The Future of the American Musical Theater," which had its premiere in 2004, and "Nightingale," first performed in 1985. He has also written for film, including the scores for the movies ""Bonnie and Clyde" and "The Night They Raided Minsky's."

Strouse's memoir, titled "Put on a Happy Face," was published by Sterling Publishing on July 1. For more information about Strouse's career, visit **www.charlesstrouse.com**. ◆

Jennifer Gavin is senior public affairs specialist in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

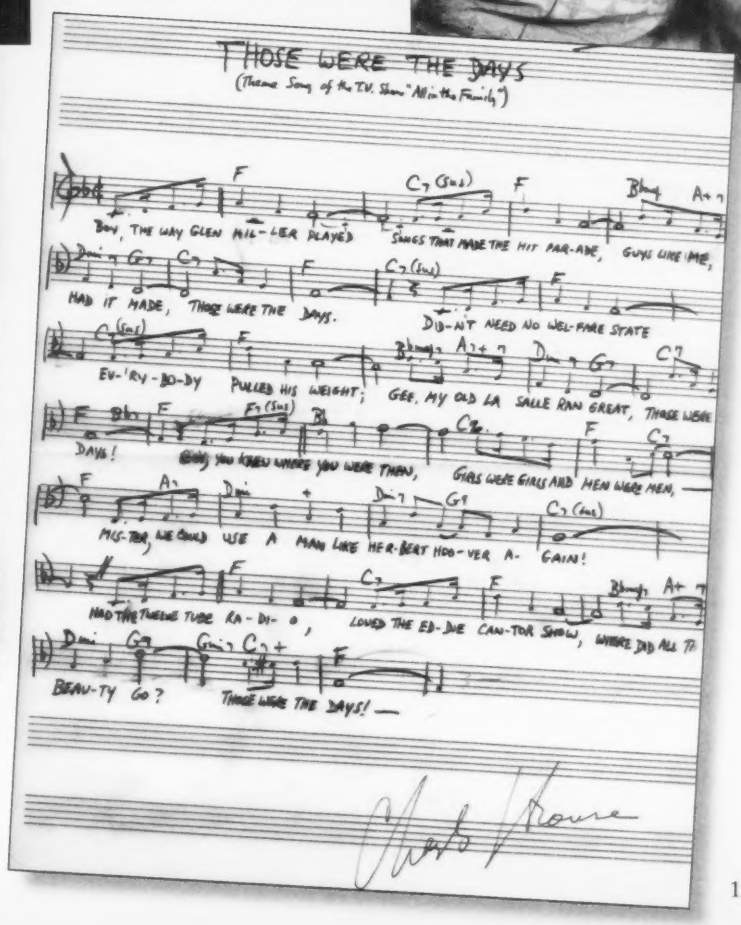
Annie

Left, Andrea McArdle, Reid Shelton and Sandy the dog from the original Broadway cast of Strouse's "Annie," 1979.

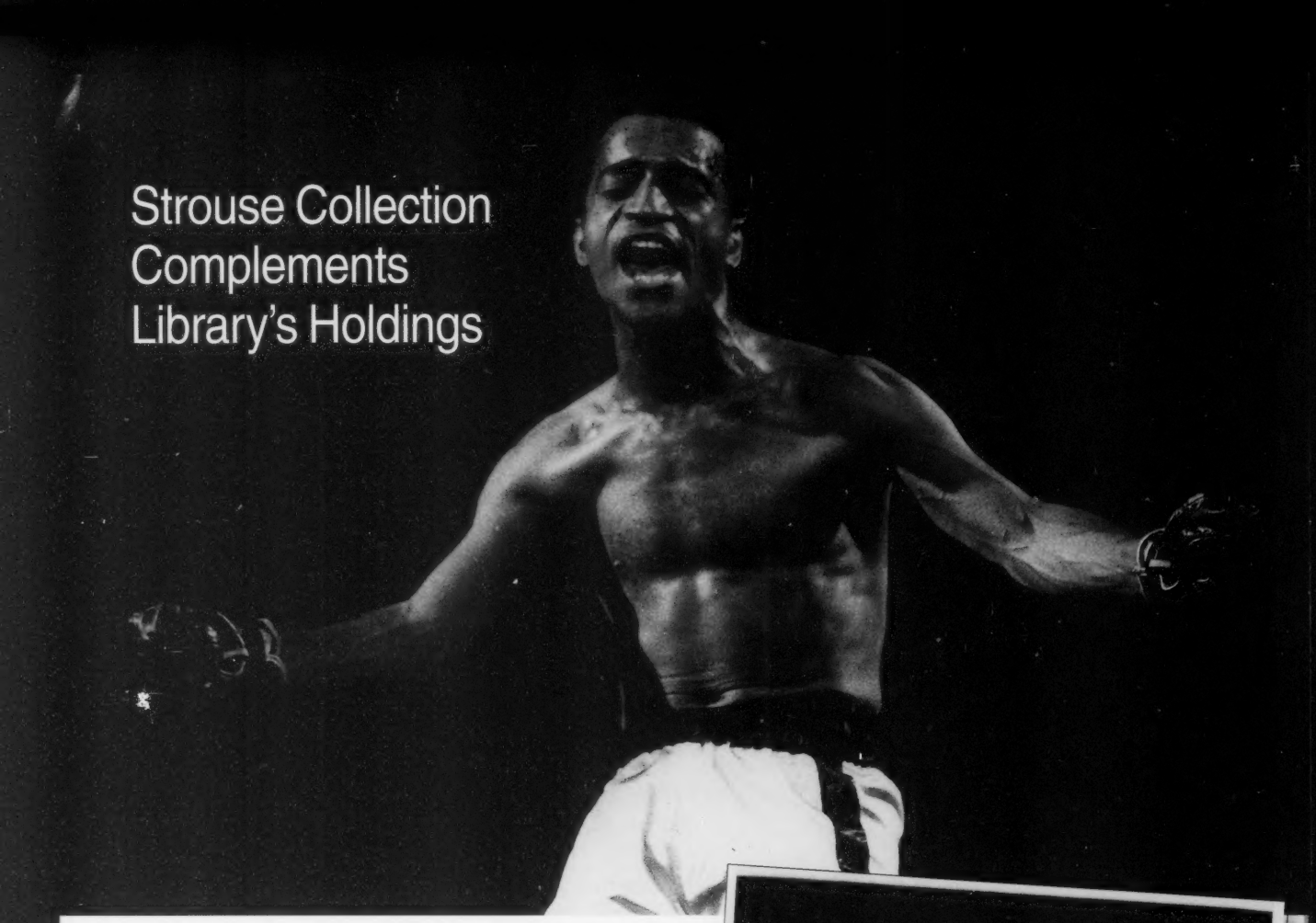
"Those Were The Days" by Charles Strouse and Lee Adams, opened more than 200 episodes of Norman Lear's acclaimed television comedy "All In The Family," starring (clockwise from top left) Rob Reiner, Sally Struthers, Jean Stapleton and Carroll O'Conner.

Martha Swope

Backstage at "Annie" at the Alvin Theatre, 1977, Strouse with Broadway's original Annie, Andrea McArdle (to his left) along with other cast members.


THOSE WERE THE DAYS
(Theme Song of the T.V. Show "All in the Family")
BOY, THE WAY GLEN MIL-LER PLAYED
SONGS THAT MADE THE HIT PAR-ADE, GUYS LIKE ME,
HAD IT MADE, THOSE WERE THE DAYS.
DID-N'T NEED NO WEL-FARE STATE
EV-'RY-BO-DY PULLED HIS WEIGHT;
GEE, MY OLD LA SALLE RAN GREAT, THOSE WERE
DAYS!
GIRLS WERE GIRLS AND MEN WERE MEN,
MIS-TER, WE COULD USE A MAN LIKE HER-BERT HOO-VER A-GAIN!
HAD THE THEME TUNE RA-DI-O,
LOVED THE ED-DIE CAN-TOR SHOW,
BEAU-TY GO?
THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

Strouse Collection Complements Library's Holdings



In 1964, Sammy Davis Jr. portrayed prizefighter Joe Wellington in Strouse's "Golden Boy." At right, the star celebrates backstage opening night with lyricist Lee Adams, left, and composer Charles Strouse.

The Charles Strouse Collection complements a number of collections housed in the Library of Congress. These include the collections of Frederic Brisson, Gower Champion, Peggy Clark, Aaron Copland, David Diamond, Alan Jay Lerner, Joshua Logan, Roger L. Stevens and Tony Walton. With the exception of the Joshua Logan Collection, which is housed in the Manuscript Division, these collections reside in the Music Division.

Strouse studied with composers Aaron Copland and David Diamond. Strouse wrote the score for "Dance A Little Closer," a musical adaptation of Robert Sherwood's "Idiot's Delight" that was produced by Frederic Brisson. Alan Jay Lerner wrote the book and lyrics for the show, starring Len Cariou and George Rose, which opened on May 11, 1982, in New York City at the Minskoff Theatre. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, chaired by Roger L. Stevens, was also a producing agent. Stevens was associated with the New York production of "Annie," with score by Strouse, which opened on April 14, 1977, in New York's Alvin Theatre.

Peggy Clark was lighting designer for Strouse's "Bye Bye Birdie," which was directed and choreographed by Gower Champion. The musical opened on April 14, 1960, in New York's Martin Beck Theatre with a cast that included Chita Rivera, Paul Lynde and Dick Van Dyke.

Champion also supervised the production of "A Broadway Musical," featuring a score by Strouse, which opened on Dec. 21, 1978, in New York's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre.

Joshua Logan directed "All American," with score by Strouse. Starring Ray Bolger, the play opened on March 19, 1962, at the Winter Garden Theatre in New York City.

Tony Walton designed the sets, costumes and projections for "Golden Boy," a musical adaptation with score by Strouse of Clifford Odets's play "Golden Boy." The musical, starring Sammy Davis Jr., opened on Oct. 20, 1964, in New York's Majestic Theatre. ◆

—Walter Zvonchenko

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
IN THE NEWS

By ERIN ALLEN

On May 14, the Librarian of Congress named 25 additional sound recordings to the National Recording Registry to ensure their preservation. *(See story on page 130.)* The selections for 2007 ranged from the first transatlantic broadcast (1925) to sounds from earth that traveled to outer space on the Voyager spacecraft in 1977. Works by "The King of Pop" and "Smokey" also made the list.

NPR host Michael Martin interviewed Oliver Wang, cultural critic and sociology professor from California State University at Long Beach, about several of the music selections on the registry. Wang pointed out that many of the musical selections were either best-selling albums of their time (Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and "Headhunters" by Herbie Hancock) or best-selling singles ("Oh Pretty Woman," by Roy Orbison). "The registry has been really good to Motown," Wang observed.

Elizabeth Cotton

Barbara Barrett, Washington correspondent for **The News & Observer** in North Carolina, focused on the Elizabeth Cotten album "'Freight Train,' and Other North Carolina Folk Songs and Tunes." A self-taught guitarist, Cotten wrote the song "Freight Train" when she was only 12. Her album was released when she was 60.

"It is not an honor that is handed out freely," said Glenn Hinson, chairman of curriculum and folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "For an African-American woman who was raised in a working-class neighborhood of Carrboro, N.C., and spent much of her life doing domestic service and caregiving, to achieve this level of national recognition … there are countless albums that could have been chosen for this kind of honor."

Jose Antonio Bowen, a member of the National Recording Preservation Board who chose Cotten's album for inclusion, said that by listening to every recording on the registry, "You'd get a range of the incredible variety of what goes into making America great."

The announcement made news across the nation on several broadcast outlets, both radio and television, including in Vancouver, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Detroit, New York, Tampa, Memphis, Dallas, Richmond and Washington, D.C.

The announcement was also highlighted on a couple of sites typically known for celebrity gossip and news. Featured on **tmz.com** was the headline "Thriller Zombies to Drool on Library of Congress." The Web site for E! Entertainment, **eonline.com**, also ran a news brief.

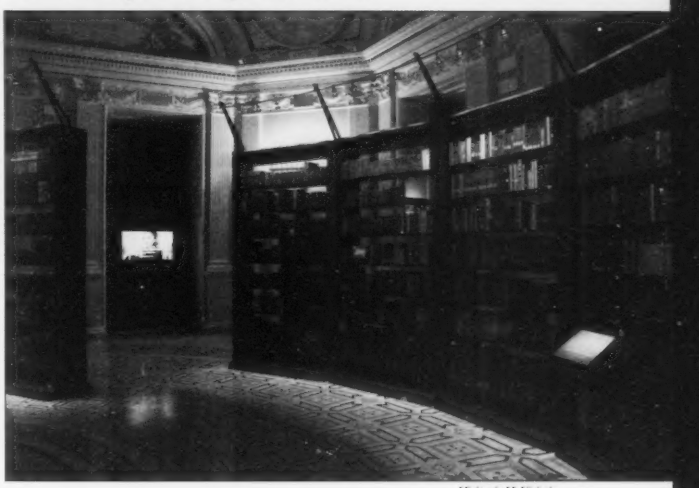
Other outlets running the story included **Jet Magazine, The New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, Hollywood Reporter, Daily Variety, Library Journal, Voice of America, Associated Press, Reuters, the Canadian Press, the Sunday Mail** (Australia), **washingtonpost.com** and **cmtnews.com** (Country Music Television).

The Library of Congress Experience

A month prior to the National Recording Registry announcement, the Library unveiled to the public its new Library of Congress Experience for visitors, offering cutting-edge interactive technology, new exhibitions and a companion Web site, **myLOC.gov**. *(See Information Bulletin, May 2008 and June 2008).* The new features and programming continued to make the news throughout the summer.

Mark Dimunation, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division at the Library, gave Michele Norris of **NPR** a tour of Thomas Jefferson's Library, one of the new interactive exhibitions. "[Jefferson] felt it extremely important that, to govern in an enlightened world and a world of reason, that governors required access to thought, philosophy, reason, law," said Dimunation.

"This being the information age, you can virtually browse through many of them [Jefferson's books] much as you would in a regular library," said Norris.



Michaela McNichol

For many, the highlight of the Library of Congress Experience has been the recreation of Thomas Jefferson's library, complete with interactive kiosks.

The **Home News Tribune** and **Asbury Park Sunday Press**, both of New Jersey, ran an article on the Library of Congress Experience, presenting it as "Trip of the Week." **American Libraries** also offered an overview of the Library's new attractions.

Matt Raymond, the Library's director of communications, was interviewed about the Library of Congress Experience on **ABC News Now**. He discussed the new exhibitions, including the interactive kiosks that allow visitors to turn pages of books and documents and zoom in on texts, and the companion Web site of **myLOC.gov**, which "mirrors" the physical Experience and allows visitors to build their own collection of digitized Library treasures.

"We're going to try to infuse these new technologies as we go forward," said Raymond, discussing the future of the Library. "This is the way people interact now, this is the way they get their information." ◆

Erin Allen is a writer-editor in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

'Thriller' in the Library

Additions to National Recording Registry Announced

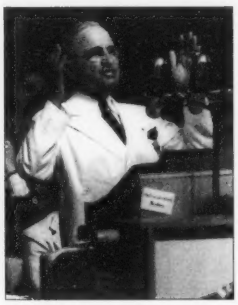
What our president said to the nation, what the nation said to the universe and a cornucopia of musical milestones highlight the major themes of the 2007 National Recording Registry. On May 14, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington named 25 additions to the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress as part of its efforts to preserve the nation's aural history.

Under the terms of the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000, the Librarian, with advice from the Library's National Recording Preservation Board (NRPB), annually selects 25 recordings that are "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" to preserve for all time. Registry recordings must be at least 10 years old. The selections for 2007 bring the total number of recordings in the registry to 250.

"Audio preservation constitutes a critical challenge," said Billington. "Much has already been lost, particularly in the field of radio. As the nation's library, the Library of Congress and NRPB are working to identify problems, come up with practical, consensus solutions and assist other institutions facing these daunting challenges."

The list of selections named to the National Recording Registry for 2007 showcases the diversity, humanity and creativity of the nation's sound heritage and features a wide variety of spoken and musical recordings, spanning the years 1925-1982.

Among the selections are Harry S. Truman's legendary address to the Democratic National Convention in 1948; a collection of more than 1,000 radio broadcast recordings by Ronald Reagan before his election to the White House; the first trans-Atlantic radio broadcast in 1925; Michael Jackson's "Thriller," the best-selling album of all time, produced by the legendary Quincy Jones; the "Sounds of Earth" disc that traveled with Voyager through space; Herbie Hancock's "Headhunters," which expanded his appeal and became a crossover hit; one of the few gospel recordings performed by Thomas Dorsey; and the first recording of "Call it Stormy Monday, but Tuesday is Just As Bad."



Harry Truman at the 1948 Democratic National Convention

Additions to the registry also feature a number of performances by significant artists such as Roy Orbison, Art Tatum, Charlie Parker, Duke Ellington, and Smokey Robinson and the Miracles.

Nominations were gathered from online submissions from the public and from the NRPB, made up of leaders in the fields of music, recorded sound and preservation. The Library is currently accepting nominations for the 2008 National Recording Registry at the NRPB Web site (**www.loc.gov/nrpb/**).

As part of its congressional mandate, the Library is identifying and preserving the best existing versions of the recordings on the registry. These recordings will be housed in the Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation, the Library's state-of-the-art preservation facility in Culpeper, Va., which was made possible through the generosity of David Woodley Packard and the Packard Humanities Institute. The Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division's collections include about 5.7 million items, including nearly 3 million sound recordings. ◆

2007 National Recording Registry

"The First Trans-Atlantic Broadcast (March 14, 1925)

"Allons a Lafayette," Joseph Falcon (1928)

"Casta Diva," from Bellini's "Norma"; Rosa Ponselle, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Giulio Setti. (Dec. 31, 1928 and Jan. 30, 1929)

"If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again," Thomas A. Dorsey (1934)

"Sweet Lorraine," Art Tatum (Feb. 22, 1940)

Fibber's Closet Opens for the First Time, "Fibber McGee and Molly" radio program (March 4, 1940)

Wings Over Jordan, Wings Over Jordan (1941)

New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia reading the comics (1945)

"Call it Stormy Monday but Tuesday is Just As Bad," T-Bone Walker (1947)

Harry S. Truman speech at the 1948 Democratic National Convention

"The Jazz Scene," various artists (1949)

"It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels," Kitty Wells (May 30, 1952)

"My Fair Lady," original-cast recording (1956)

Navajo Shootingway Ceremony Field Recordings, recorded by David McAllester (1957-1958)

"'Freight Train,' and Other North Carolina Folk Songs and Tunes," Elizabeth Cotten (1959)

Marine Band Concert Album to Help Benefit the National Cultural Center (1963)

"Oh, Pretty Woman," Roy Orbison (1964)

"Tracks of My Tears," Smokey Robinson and the Miracles (1965)

"You'll Sing a Song and I'll Sing a Song," Ella Jenkins (1966)

"Music from the Morning of the World," various artists; recorded by David Lewiston (1966)

"For the Roses," Joni Mitchell (1972)

"Headhunters," Herbie Hancock (1973)

Ronald Reagan Radio Broadcasts (1976-1979)

"The Sounds of Earth," disc prepared for the Voyager spacecraft (1977)

"Thriller," Michael Jackson (1982)

Roy Orbison

Learning in Crisis

Symposium Addresses How Education in U.S. Can Keep Its Competitive Edge Worldwide

By JENNIFER GAVIN

Education in the United States is falling behind that of many other countries to a degree that should alarm policymakers and spur new policies and approaches, according to studies cited by education experts and economists meeting at the Library on June 27.

The Library and the organization Strong American Schools sponsored the conference, "Remaining Competitive in a Flat World," which focused on the linkage between the nation's educational attainment and its competitive standing in the world.

C-SPAN carried the forum live on the same day that the Associated Press released the results of its national poll that sampled U.S. attitudes about education and perceptions about Americans' relative place in international educational standings.

The poll showed that most Americans believe the United States is just keeping up with, or falling behind, the rest of the world in education. Complete poll results can be reviewed at the AP survey Web site, **http://surveys.ap.org**.

"As the Librarian of Congress, as a researcher, former teacher and as the grandfather of 12 children ... I'm more convinced than ever that access to knowledge and information remains the bedrock of a free civilization," said James H. Billington as he welcomed the nearly 80 people attending the forum.

Several of the economists and educational researchers who spoke at the forum noted that Americans seem unaware that their children's academic performance isn't holding up internationally as many competing nations make significantly greater gains in math, science and other educational pursuits.

One presenter, Gary Phillips of the American Institutes of Research, termed this the "Lake Wobegon Delusion," in reference to Garrison Keillor's fictional town in which "all the children are above average."

"We need somebody to help wake us up," said former Colorado Gov. Roy Romer, who heads the group Strong American Schools and is also chairing its "Ed in '08" campaign, which seeks to get education onto the radar of national policymakers during this election year.

Noting that education has been controlled largely at the local level in the United States, Romer said any attempt to improve education should not appear to be a federal takeover. He suggested that the new president early in his term convene a meeting of governors and charge a sizable group of them with setting high standards based on methods proven internationally, and then seek voluntary, wide adoption of those standards.

Romer also said the United States needs to devote more time to the process of learning, and said some method needs to be devised to guarantee that those who teach are capable. Now, he said, "We can't get rid of those who ought not to be in the system," and suggested, "Why don't we buy them out?"

Speakers at the conference included Andreas Schleicher, of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, who showed a series of charts indicating that many nations are moving ahead in key areas of economically valuable education, causing the United States to be shoved downward in international standings in some disciplines.

Bill Bennett, who served as U.S. Secretary of Education from 1985-88, cited three major influences on U.S. educational levels: the quality of K-12 teaching, individuals' realizations later in life that they may have some catching-up to do if they want to hold decent jobs, and the priority parents assign to education and transmit to their children.

Some Americans who didn't get what they needed in school find ways to catch up later. For example, he noted, young students' performances in American History tend to be the worst among all their subjects. Nevertheless, he added, Americans at some point become interested enough in history to make many historical writers rich from book sales.

"Americans learn after school, despite school, later in life," using community colleges, online courses, and other catch-up methods, he said. "People become motivated by maturity, marriages and mortgages" or by the jarring reality of an ill-paid, dead-end job, he said.

Bennett urged more "front-loading" of emphasis on math and science in the early years, noting that students with free choice often choose away from those subjects by the time they're in high school or college.

Phillips said many Americans are so deficient in science and math literacy that they can't even compute the cost-per-ounce of a food item, calculate how many miles per gallon they got on a road trip, or figure out "a 10 percent tip on lunch." Yet, he said, there is a general perception among members of the public as well as policymakers that education is at least adequate.

The conference was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and organized by Geraldine Otremba, senior adviser for special projects in education at the Library of Congress. Bennett's remarks can be viewed on C-SPAN's Web site under its "c-span archives" section and a webcast of the entire conference is available on the Library of Congress site at **www.loc.gov/webcasts/**.

Other participants at the conference included Tom Toch of the group Education Sector, who emceed the first panel; Frank Sesno of CNN, who moderated the second panel; and panelists Eric Hanushek of the Hoover Institution, Helen Ladd of Duke University; and Clive Belfield of Queens College. ◆

Jennifer Gavin is senior public affairs specialist in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

All photos this article by Brian Williams

Members of the new House caucus in support of the Library of Congress were given a tour of new exhibitions in the Jefferson Building Jan. 29 by Librarian of Congress James Billington and Chief Operating Officer Jo Ann Jenkins. Below, Rep. Earl Blumenauer and Rep. Ron Kind are escorted through the "Creating the United States" exhibition with guest curator Gerard Gawalt.

Members of Congress attending a working dinner with Library staff as part of the caucus tour included Reps. Thomas Petri, Vernon Ehlers, Jeff Fortenberry, Ray LaHood, Jim McDermott, Michael Conaway and Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

The Congress' Library

House Members Support New Library Caucus

By GAIL FINEBERG

House members convening the first meeting of a new Library of Congress Congressional Caucus in June suggested some events and activities that might attract more members of Congress to the Library and entice them to use its resources.

During a House hearing on the Library's 2003 budget request, Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Ill., asked what the Library was doing to promote congressional use of Library facilities and services. Since then he has asked the same question periodically, usually at House budget hearings, suggesting that members of Congress are underutilizing their Library because they do not know enough about it to appreciate it and use it.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington asked LaHood for ideas, and in January, Susan Shaw and Steve Kelley of the Library's Congressional Relations Office went to work in support of a bipartisan effort led by LaHood and Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., to form the Library of Congress Congressional Caucus.

On Jan. 29, LaHood and Blumenauer issued House members an invitation to become founding members of the caucus. In a "Dear Colleague" letter they explained: "The purpose of establishing a Library of Congress Congressional Caucus is to draw members' attention to the nation's library and its unparalleled collections and knowledgeable curators and to encourage further use of these extraordinary resources."

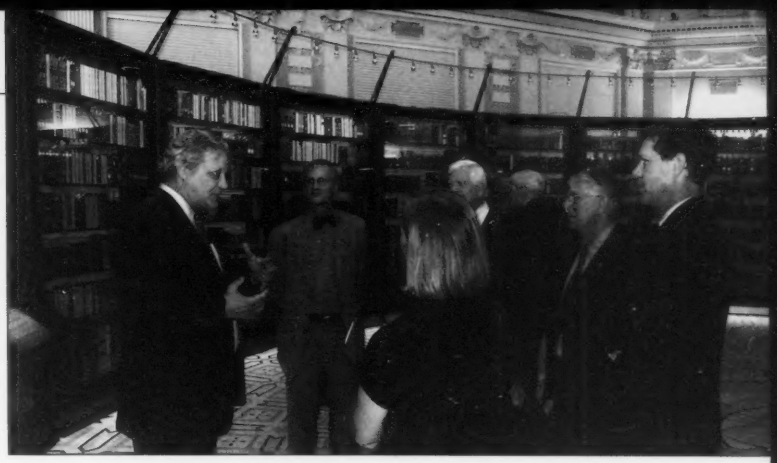
Thirty-three members have responded favorably so far to the invitation, and 10 of them joined the Librarian and Chief of Staff Jo Ann Jenkins for dinner in the Members Room of the Jefferson Building on June 10 to discuss how the Library can better serve the Congress and inform its members and constituents about the Library's mission and collections.

Members attending the first caucus event, in addition to co-chairmen Blumenauer and LaHood, were Reps. Michael Conaway, R-Tex.; Vern Ehlers, R-Mich., former chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library; Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb., and his wife, Celeste Gregory; Ron Kind, D-Wis., Donald Manzullo, R-Ill., and his wife, Freda Manzullo; Jim McDermott, D-Wash.; Thomas Petri, R-Wis., and his wife Anne Neal; and Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., chairwoman of the House legislative branch appropriations subcommittee.

After the Librarian's brief introductory remarks, LaHood invited members to share their thoughts about the Library, explain why they joined the caucus and state how they thought members could make better use of the Library.

That the caucus is a Library fan club was evident in some of the remarks. One member said he felt "smart" just walking into the Library, which he described as a "treasure." He said he would encourage other members to join the caucus.

Another said the Library is the first place he sends constituents visiting the nation's capital. However, he said many tourists and visitors to his office know nothing about the Library, and some have told him they did not know the



Rare Book and Special Collections Division Chief Mark Dimunation leads Reps. Blumenauer, McDermot, Don Manzullo, Kind and others on a tour of Thomas Jefferson's library.

Below, Reps. Michael Conaway, McDermott, Blumenauer and Kind listen as education specialist Susan Mordan describes a section of the "Exploring the Early Americas" exhibition.

Library was open to the public.

There has to be a way to convey information about the Library to the members and their constituents living in congressional districts throughout the country, one member said. One vehicle for educating members about the Library might be the popular Veterans History Project and its Web site, he suggested.

Four members recommended that the Library focus on attracting young readers as well as adult users and visitors. One suggested that the Library of Congress Congressional Caucus start a movement to stress the importance of young people understanding American history through the study of the original founding documents, such as those shown in the Library exhibition "Creating the United States."

The Library should host an event especially for members of Congress and their children, suggested Wasserman Shultz, who has said at public hearings that her children always ask to visit the Library when they visit Washington.

Billington and Jenkins reported that the Library plans to open an education center and a children's reading area. They also updated the caucus on two digital innovations that will hold special appeal for young Library visitors and users—the Passport to Knowledge and Knowledge Quest.

The Passport is an electronic library card that will enable Jefferson Building visitors to bookmark exhibition items that pique their curiosity for further research from their home or school computers. A Passport link to an interactive Web site (**myLOC.gov**) will enable card-holders to make connections between what they saw in the exhibitions and in the Thomas Jefferson Building to online collections contained within the Library's vast Web site (**www.loc.gov**). Passports also will enable the holders to play an interactive game, Knowledge Quest, which will present problems and riddles that can be solved through exploration of the Library's collections, exhibition items or architectural details.

Other members suggested that the Library plan special events for members at times that their families are in town for other events, such as the White House Christmas party; show the film "National Treasure: Book of Secrets" just for members and their families; participate in congressional orientation activities for new members; hold special dinners in the Members Room for new members; and arrange retreats for individual members and their staffs from offices in their districts and Washington, D.C.

Three members praised the Librarian for his use of the Internet and digital technology to reach out with such initiatives as THOMAS, which makes legislative information available to millions online; the World Digital Library, which makes available online antiquities from the major libraries of the world; and Open World, which brings Russian judges and other leaders to the United States to see the workings of self-governance.

After dinner, the group toured three major exhibitions ("Creating the United States," "Thomas Jefferson's Library" and "Exploring the Early Americas"), listened to exhibition interpretations by curators Gerald Gawalt and Mark Dimunation and staffer Susan Mordan, and tried out the interactive technologies that bring to life the Library Experience.

Congratulating the Library on the quality of the exhibitions and technologies, one member said he was thrilled that the Library had not created an amusement park but had preserved the integrity of the historical artifacts on display and ornate public space in the Thomas Jefferson Building. ◆

Gail Fineberg is editor of The Gazette, the Library's staff newsletter.

Facing Monumental Challenges

Preservation Education Symposium Looks to the Future

By DONNA URSCHEL

The task ahead for the preservation and conservation communities is monumental: to provide care for billions of at-risk holdings in archives, libraries, museums, historical societies and other repositories in the United States. More staff, more training and more resources will be needed to meet the challenge.

The Library of Congress Preservation Directorate convened a symposium May 15 and 16 to address issues of preservation education in the 21st century. Approximately 70 invited preservation and conservation leaders across the country gathered to identify priorities.

Deanna Marcum, associate librarian for Library Services at the Library of Congress, welcomed the audience. "How we approach education for preservation in the 21st century is a very important topic," she said. Many decisions need to be made and those decisions should be community-based, with input from experts across the country.

She reminded the audience, "What distinguishes libraries and archives in our society is that we have an obligation on behalf of society to preserve what our fellow citizens have learned, thought, written and experienced. No other organizations have this responsibility."

Diane Vogt-O'Connor (pictured above), head of the Library's Conservation Division, provided an overview of the preservation needs of our nation's collections. She quoted from the Heritage Health Index, which was published in December 2005, by Heritage Preservation, a nonprofit organization, along with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal agency. The country's 30,000 libraries, archives, museums and other repositories hold more than 4.8 billion items.

Vogt-O'Connor said the Heritage Health Index found the following artifacts to be at risk: 270 million rare and unique books, periodicals and scrapbooks; 189 million natural-science specimens; 153 million photographs; 13.5 million historic objects, from flags and quilts to presidential china and Pueblo pottery; and 4.7 million works of art.

How can the nation provide a safe environment and proper care for collections? The first step is for coordinated educational planning, which was addressed in the four working sessions of the symposium. Each working session identified the training needs, educational gaps and potential educational solutions for a particular topic.

The four groups looked at one of the following topics: How training should be conducted; what should be taught; who should be trained, especially in the context of geographical, economic and professional demographic distribution and effectiveness; and funding and resources for educational training.

The experts arrived at the following potential solutions. They suggested more and better-supported post-graduate fellowships; senior scholar initiatives to preserve expert knowledge; and the development and dissemination of standards and best practices.

In addition, participants suggested the development of new and hybrid specializations; a structuring of graduate conservation education to permit wider course choices; and increasing the use of new and evolving technologies for education and training.

They also cited the need to articulate compelling arguments for more funding; to develop data-driven models of return on investment; and to conduct further research to quantify risk and develop risk assessment tools.

The symposium was funded in part by a $60,000 grant from the Getty Foundation. In addition to the Library of Congress Preservation Directorate, sponsors included Heritage Preservation; the Institute of Museum and Library Services; and International Federation of Library Associations' Preservation and Conservation North American Network members, including the libraries at Yale and Pepperdine universities, the Kilgarlin Center for the Preservation of the Cultural Record at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Preservation Programs of the National Archives and Records Administration.

According to Director of Preservation Dianne van der Reyden, "The Library of Congress has a long history of fostering national preservation strategies in education, emergency preparation and research. But as collections expand to unprecedented sizes and formats, new partners and emerging technologies are required to solve the distinctly new challenges of the 21st century."

In summation, van der Reyden said, "With this symposium, we've begun to articulate the challenges, as well as explore a wide diversity of ideas and resources, as a prelude to determining—and developing—new skills and knowledge needed for collections care in the future." ◆

Donna Urschel is a writer-editor in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

Staff Updates

Library Launches Preservation Initiative

To meet the challenges of preserving traditional and new media, the Library of Congress has hired four preservation research scientists as part of a multi-faceted preservation research initiative.

Housed in the Preservation Research and Testing Division of the Library's Preservation Directorate, the initiative will include the opening later this year of two "green" energy-efficient laboratories—a chemical and mechanical properties laboratory and an optical properties laboratory. The initiative will also include a new center to safeguard and make accessible the Library's rare and valuable preservation science reference collection.

"We are fortunate to have these new scientists on the Library's team," said Dianne van der Reyden, the Library's director for preservation. "Their wide range of knowledge and skills complement those of our talented staff. This aggregate expertise, along with the reopening of the Preservation Research and Testing Division's refurbished laboratories by the end of the year, will allow the Library to develop preservation strategies for traditional, audiovisual and digital collections in the 21st century."

- **Christopher S. Coughlin** received a Bachelor of Science in engineering from Case Western Reserve University and a Ph.D. in polymer science from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has held a variety of governmental positions, including six years at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR).
- **Lynn Brostoff** received a master's degree in polymer materials science from the University of Cincinnati and master's in art history (and certificate in conservation) from New York University. She also holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. She has worked at the Smithsonian Institutions Museum Conservation Institute and the National Gallery of Art.
- **Fenella France** received a Ph.D. in textile science from the University of Otago in New Zealand. She has worked as the Smithsonian Institution preservation scientist on the Star-Spangled Banner project, as scientific analyst and project manager for the World Trade Center 9/11 Project and as conservation scientist and environmental consultant with the American Museum of Natural History in New York.
- **Jennifer Wade** received a Ph.D. in earth sciences from Boston University. She has held a temporary position as a physical scientist in the Preservation Research and Testing Division of the Library of Congress.

There are two main areas of the preservation research and testing initiative: the materials science of traditional, audiovisual, and digital collections, determining their chemical composition, stability, durability, longevity and preservation needs; and environmental studies, quality assurance and analytical services. A new Web site will provide continual updates on these program elements.

The other actions in the Library's preservation research and testing initiative, managed by the Preservation Research and Testing Division include:

Reopening of PRTD's optical properties lab, which will have new capabilities to track changes in optical properties of materials, using a new environmental scanning electron microscope and other imaging systems; reopening PRTD's chemical and mechanical properties laboratory, with new capabilities to track changes in chemical and physical properties, including the reinstallation of a new TAPPI Standards room to test durability and strength, state-of-the-art equipment for elemental analysis, and the mass deacidification center for treatment; and opening a new center to safeguard and make accessible the Library's rare and valuable preservation science reference collection, including the Library's TAPPI Standard Paper Materials Collection, the Forbes Pigment Collection and the original Barrow Books Collection. ◆

Ott to Direct Congressional Relations Office

Kathleen G. Ott has been appointed director of the Congressional Relations Office in the Library of Congress.

Ott brings to the Library extensive congressional liaison experience in both the public and private sectors. Over a period of 25 years she held a series of progressively responsible government relations positions, rising to the position of director of government relations for Northrop Grumman Corporation (formerly TRW, Inc), a post she held for 11 years.

For the past four years, she has held the position of director of government relations for the Corporation for National and Community Service, where she served as a key member of the corporation's executive leadership team working closely with congressional offices and appropriations subcommittees, the White House, the Office of Management and Budget and Executive Branch agencies.

As director of the Library's Congressional Relations Office, Ott she will serve on the Librarian's senior management team and be responsible for identifying and assessing the Library's services to Congress and heightening the visibility of the Library, its programs and services with members of Congress, their staff and constituencies. She will also work collaboratively with top Library management to develop and implement effective strategies for securing congressional support for legislation related to the Library. ◆

Awards and Honors

NLS Recognizes Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (Carnegie LBPH) has been named the 2007 Network Library of the Year by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) in the Library of Congress. Now in its fourth year, the annual award for outstanding accomplishments by a network library was presented at a ceremony held June 11 at the Library of Congress.

"The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has made tremendous strides in reaching potential patrons and introducing those individuals to the talking-book program," said NLS Director Frank Kurt Cylke. "Its dynamic newsletter, informative publications, outstanding and innovative services and substantial outreach efforts make Carnegie LBPH the NLS Network Library of the Year."

Carnegie LBPH serves more than 8,100 patrons in 36 counties of western Pennsylvania. By forming partnerships and collaborating with state agencies, disability organizations, foundations and consumer groups, Carnegie LBPH increased the number of library visitations by 153 percent and disseminated information to more than 3,600 individuals. Despite a 50 percent cut in its outreach program budget in 2007, Carnegie LBPH increased attendance at its events by 20 percent, drawing more than 4,200 adults and 1,000 children to its programs. Last year, the library's outreach van made 59 visits to county fairs, expositions and senior citizens' centers. Overall, the library's outreach efforts added a thousand new readers.

Carolyn Sung

Staff members from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped include, from left: Tracey Moresk, senior librarian; Kathleen Kappel, director; Mitch Small, computer systems administrator; and Keri Castellano, volunteer coordinator.

Carnegie LBPH is one of the original cooperating libraries of the national free library service administered by NLS and the first library in the NLS network to launch a voice-activated public access catalog (Vo-PAC). The service, which enables patrons to search the collection and order books privately and independently, has been provided by Carnegie LBPH for more than a decade.

NLS administers the free program that loans recorded and braille books and magazines, music scores in braille and large print, and specially designed playback equipment to residents of the United States who are unable to read or use regular print materials because of visual or physical handicaps. The 128 network libraries—throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands—provide direct service to eligible individuals and institutions. Eligible American citizens living abroad are also able to participate in the NLS program. For more information about NLS, visit **www.loc.gov/nls/**. ◆

Center For The Book Receives Raven Award

Mystery Writers of America (MWA) has announced that the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress is one of two recipients of its 2008 Raven Award, which honors outstanding achievement in the mystery field outside the realm of creative writing. The other recipient is Kate's Mystery Books of Cambridge, Mass. The award, given annually since 1953, was presented on May 1 at the 2008 Edgar Awards Banquet in New York City.

The Center for the Book receives the Raven Award in recognition of its constant support of and dedication to literacy education as a whole, including its encouragement of "MWA Reads," the Mystery Writers of America's youth literacy project. The award also commends the center, "one of the Library of Congress's most dynamic and visible educational outreach programs," for the crucial role it has played in the National Book Festival since its origin in 2001.

Mystery Writers of America is the premier organization for mystery writers, professionals allied to the crime-writing field, aspiring crime writers and those who are devoted to the genre. With 11 chapters covering all 50 states, the organization provides scholarships for writers and conducts other activities that promote the appreciation of crime writing.

For further information on the Raven Award, visit **www.mysterywriters.org**. ◆

Letters About Literature

Program Honors National and State Winners

One hundred fifty young readers across the country were honored in June with state and national awards for their achievements in this year's Letters About Literature writing contest, sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in association with Target. Six national winners received cash awards and also earned for their community or school library a $10,000 Letters About Literature reading promotion grant. Twelve national honorable mention winners were also chosen, receiving cash awards and earning for their community or school library a $1,000 reading promotion grant.

With funding provided by Target, the national reading promotion program challenges young readers to write a personal letter to an author, describing how that author's work has changed their view of the world or of themselves. As the national winning entries in the Letters About Literature contest display, many young people today are dealing with issues of discrimination and self-esteem. They are striving to connect with parents—some of whom are fighting in Iraq and others who are foreign-born—and they are seeking to improve themselves and make the world a better place. Favorite characters and works of literature help them navigate that rough terrain.

More than 59,000 children in grades 4 through 12 participated this year. Students compete in one of three competition levels: elementary school, grades four through six; middle school, grades seven and eight; and high school, grades nine through 12. On the state level, the program is sponsored by affiliate state centers for the book. State and national judges include published authors, editors, publishers, librarians and teachers.

For information about the program and a list of previous Letters About Literature winners, visit **www.loc.gov/letters/**. For further details, contact the national program director at **lal@epix.net.** ◆

National Winners

Level I (Grades 4-6)

McKenzie Dent, Puyallup, Wash.;
Alice Mead, "Soldier Mom"
Hunter Hastings, Springfield, Ore.;
Lawrence Taylor, "Taylor"

Level II (Grades 7-8)

Anna Rodis, Farmington, Conn.;
Paul Showers, "The Listening Walk"
Dana Vigue, Maine;
Janet Shaw, "Meet Kaya"

Level III (Grades 9-12)

Maggie Tighe, Frederick, Md.;
Aldous Huxley, "Brave New World"
Ayesha Usmani, Memphis, Tenn.;
Amy Tan, "The Joy Luck Club"

The Letters

Here are some excerpts from letters written by the six national winners:

"My dad didn't leave me because he wanted to. 'Soldier Mom' helped me to know that by Jas having similar experiences. I have realized that although the Army has taken my dad away for a year, it is his job to serve in the war and keep our country free."

—Written by McKenzie Dent to Alice Mead, author of "Soldier Mom"

"Even though my life and the world around me have gotten much more hectic, there is always time to squeeze in a little 'listening walk.' I can't wait to take them with my children."

—Written by Anna Rodis to Paul Showers, author of "The Listening Walk"

"Nobody bullies me about my heritage anymore. I'm proud of being a Micmac Indian and I will always take a stand for myself. Thank you sincerely for the cherished inspiration that you've given me."

—Written by Dana Vigue to Janet Shaw, author of "Meet Kaya"

"Thank you for sharing your story, which inspired me to change my view of myself and what I can accomplish. I wrote down a sentence from your book and keep it on my desk. You said, 'Life, like anything else, can knock you down. You will have problems every day in your life. But sometimes… sometimes you just got to go play. The crime is not being knocked down, the crime is not getting up again.'"

—Written by Hunter Hastings to Lawrence Taylor, author of "Taylor"

"I strive to find the connection with mother. A connection that will balance independence and loyalty to my heritage. A balance of Pakistani values of love, obedience and humility in harmony with American values of independence, free speech and self-esteem. A journey that will always be difficult but worth the effort.

"I desired that connection with your guidance, Amy Tan. A connection that I have now found. My mother sits at her corner in the East and I at the West. But we are united in harmony. A harmony that appreciates our similarities and our dependence for each other."

—Written by Ayesha Usmani to Amy Tan, author of "The Joy Luck Club"

"Your book was devoid of true happiness in that it was devoid of struggle. I now appreciate that my generation can take the 'easy way out' of nearly everything, but I'm not going to let that privilege consume me.

"With 'Brave New World,' you have shown me that my circle of friends, my community, and my world require the personal sacrifice of time and energy to achieve meaningful happiness. Thank you for this gift."

—Written by Maggie Tighe to Aldous Huxley, author of "Brave New World"

News from the Center for the Book

State Centers Celebrate Ideas, Excellence

By JOHN Y. COLE

State center coordinators from 40 states and the District of Columbia attended the Center for the Book's annual Idea Exchange, which was held at the Library of Congress in May. The two-day meeting welcomed several new state center directors and featured lively discussions about Center for the Book reading promotion projects such as Letters About Literature, River of Words, the Books & Beyond author series and "One Book" community reading and discussion projects. The 2008 Boorstin Awards were presented to three state centers for their innovative reading-promotion programs.

Award-winning novelist Brad Meltzer, who appeared in the "Mysteries & Thrillers" pavilion at the 2006 National Book Festival and will be featured at the 2008 National Book Festival on Sept. 27, was a guest speaker at the idea exchange luncheon and at the Library's annual Library Legislative Day reception that evening.

Meltzer spoke at the luncheon, introducing Joel Marlin, his own "literacy coordinator." He described his personal satisfaction when his 2004 novel "The Zero Game" was chosen in 2006 by the state of Florida for a statewide "One Book" reading and discussion program.

"The biggest reward didn't come from being selected for One Book—the honor was getting the reactions from so many high schoolers and parents who had never read a book together before," Meltzer said. "Can you imagine? Parents and teenagers … gasp … reading together!? That was thanks to you—the librarians who make it happen." He also complimented the state center coordinators for their important work and answered questions about his writing habits and choice of settings (primarily Washington, D.C., as is the case with "The Zero Game."). When asked how he obtained so much access to the White House, he credited the assistance of two former presidents.

Also participating in the Legislative Day reception, hosted as in past years by the Center for the Book, were Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and American Library Association (ALA) President Loriene Roy. Billington praised the Center for the Book's Letters About Literature and National Ambassador for Young People's Literature projects. He also lauded ALA initiatives spearheaded by Roy. Roy, who spoke at the Library in November to mark Native American Heritage Month *(see Information Bulletin, January/February 2008)*, described the activities of the Circle of Literacy Task Force she implemented as ALA president.

State center representatives were briefed on the conclusions of a study conducted with Library support by Natalie Cole Furner, former coordinator of the California Center for the Book (2002-2005). To help the center evaluate its past and look to its future, Furner reviewed the center's original authorization and mandate (Public Law 95-129, approved by President Jimmy Carter on Oct. 13, 1977) and suggested a revised mission statement. Furner also recommended a strategic planning effort; new fundraising strategies; a redesigned Web site; and outreach efforts targeted to young people. A key recommendation was that the center use digital technologies more extensively to improve communications, disseminate information and streamline internal operations. ◆

John Y. Cole is director of the Center for the Book.

2008 Boorstin Awards

The 2008 Boorstin Awards were presented to the Kansas, Ohio, and Rhode Island affiliated state centers for the book. Each award includes a $1,000 cash stipend. Funds to support the awards were donated to the Center for the Book by Ruth F. Boorstin, wife of former Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin (1975-1987), who established the Center for the Book in 1977.

Since 1984, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have created statewide affiliates that carry the national Center for the Book's mission to the local level. State affiliates provide their own financial and in-kind support and must apply for renewal from the Library of Congress every three years. Following is a list of the state centers and the citations describing their accomplishments:

- **Kansas**. For a successful transition to a new home at the State Library of Kansas, and its subsequent development into a highly-visible statewide resource program for promoting Kansas books and authors through many projects, including the new Kansas Notable Books list; the Kansas Reads annual one-book discussion project; sponsorship of the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Project, and renewed participation in the national center's Letters About Literature program after a four-year hiatus.
- **Ohio**. For a successful transition to a new home at the Cleveland Public Library, where the center has tackled—with the help of a redesigned, expanded, and effective new Web site—many projects that promote and celebrate Ohio's literary heritage. They include: in partnership with the State Library and the Ohioiana Library, the award-winning new Ohio Literary Map; the celebration of the literary heritage of Charles W. Chesnutt; and the new online Book Explorations author project.
- **Rhode Island**. For a successful period of renewal under the leadership of the Providence Public Library, an effort that resulted in increased individual and organizational membership. Also for the effective continuation of its Reading Across Rhode Island signature event, the development of a new series of reading promotion programs for specific constituencies, including young readers and the book arts, and for significant and effective marketing achievements such as the creation of a new Web site and logo. ◆

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